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Enclosed is a review of holdings on the Bamaca case that we requested from our ALA analysts. Their information and conclusions track closely with the information we forwarded to you earlier this afternoon. If you found this product helpful or have any comments, we would like to send them to the analysts, so they know how their "short fuse" product was received.

Approved for Release
Date June 1996

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1. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO REF A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON ALA HOLDINGS ON THE EFRIAN ((BAMACA)) VELASQUEZ, AKA "COMMANDANTE EVARADO," CASE.

2. ACCORDING TO EMBASSY REPORTING, GOG OFFICIALS MAINTAIN THAT REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATION OF PEOPLE IN ARMS (ORPA) LEADER EFRIAN BAMACA DIED FOLLOWING AN ENGAGEMENT WITH ARMY TROOPS IN MARCH 1992. THEY CLAIM HE FELL VICTIM OF A SELF-INFLICTED WOUND TO THE MOUTH, AND WAS BURIED IN AN UNMARKED GRAVE IN RETALHULEU. HOWEVER, AN AUGUST 1993 EXHUMATION OF THE UNMARKED GRAVE FAILED TO PRODUCE THE REMAINS OF COMMANDANTE EVARADO, OR OF ANY OTHER VICTIM WITH SUCH A TELL-TALE WOUND. SINCE THEN, HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS--LED BY JENNIFER HARBURY, A U.S. CITIZEN AND BAMACA'S REPUTED COMMON-LAW WIFE--ALLEGE THAT THE ORPA LEADER WAS CAPTURED AND SUBSEQUENTLY INTERNED WITH 35 OTHER GUERRILLAS IN A CLANDESTINE MILITARY PRISON. PRESIDENT DE LEON, MINISTER OF DEFENSE GENERAL ENRIQUEZ, AND OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS REPEATEDLY HAVE DENIED THESE CHARGES, AND INSIST THAT SUCH CAMPS DO NOT EXIST. (C NF)

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3. [redacted] REPORTING SUGGESTS THAT THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT HAS SYSTEMATICALLY MISREPRESENTED ITS KNOWLEDGE AND USE OF CLANDESTINE MILITARY PRISONS, AS WELL AS THE PRESUMED DESTINY OF COMMANDANTE EVARADO. WHAT FOLLOWS IS A COMPILATION, IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER, OF ALL RELATED [redacted] REPORTING AVAILABLE TO ALA ON THE BAMACA CASE. [redacted]

IN MAY 1994, [redacted] MOD ENRIQUEZ GAVE VERBAL ORDERS TO ALL ZONE COMMANDERS TO IDENTIFY CLANDESTINE CEMETERIES AND PURGE INTELLIGENCE-RELATED DOCUMENTS.

[redacted]

1.5c (b)(1) (b)(3) S

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[redacted] IN MARCH 1992 [redacted] BAMACA [redacted] WAS CAPTURED. BAMACA WAS SUBSEQUENTLY



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TAKEN AWAY BY UNIDENTIFIED MILITARY INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS FROM THE ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF, AND [redacted] CLAIMS HE NEVER SAW BAMACA OR HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT HIS WHEREABOUTS OR STATUS AGAIN. [redacted] REPORTEDLY IMPLIED THAT BAMACA WAS IN GOOD, IF NOT EXCELLENT HEALTH, AT HIS TIME OF CAPTURE. [redacted] WHEN QUESTIONED WHY, IF BAMACA IS NOW DEAD, THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT DOES NOT TURN OVER HIS REMAINS, [redacted] OPINED THAT TO DO SO WOULD OPEN THE GOVERNMENT (AND THE MILITARY) TO A FLOOD OF REQUESTS FOR THE WHEREABOUTS AND REMAINS OF VICTIMS OF THE LONG AND BLOODY CIVIL WAR. [redacted] CLAIMED "THE GOVERNMENT AND THE ARMED FORCES WOULD HAVE NOTHING TO GAIN BY RELEASING BAMACA'S REMAINS, AND WOULD ONLY BE OPENING THEMSELVES UP TO INTERNATIONAL CONDEMNATION AFTER DOING SO." [redacted]

1.5c (b)(1) (b)(3) S

IN EARLY OCTOBER 1993, ARMY SPECIALISTS FRANCISCO ((SOLOBAL)) AND TIBURCIO ((HERNANDEZ)), EACH SERVING A 30 YEAR SENTENCE FOR THEIR ROLE IN THE MURDER OF U.S. CITIZEN MICHAEL DEVINE, PUBLICLY ALLEGED THE ARMY MAINTAINS CLANDESTINE CEMETERIES AND JAILS. [redacted] THE GUATEMALAN NATIONAL DEFENSE STAFF, WORRIED THAT THE ALLEGATIONS--WHETHER TRUE OR NOT--COULD DAMAGE THE ARMY'S IMAGE AT A TIME WHEN IT HAD MADE GREAT STRIDES TO IMPROVE ITS REPUTATION, SENT A SENIOR COUNTERINTELLIGENCE OFFICER TO MEET WITH THE IMPRISONED SPECIALISTS. ALTHOUGH THE SPECIALISTS ADMITTED TO HAVING EXAGGERATED THEIR ALLEGATIONS, [redacted]

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[redacted] IN MID-MAY 1993 [redacted] GUATEMALAN [redacted] OFFICERS REPORTEDLY BELIEVED THE ACCOUNTS OF 'WILLY' AND 'CARLOS,' TWO URNG MEMBERS WHO TESTIFIED BEFORE THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION IN MARCH 1993 ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCES AS PRISONERS AND WHO, PRIOR TO THEIR ESCAPE FROM ONE OF THESE CAMPS, CLAIM TO HAVE SEEN BAMACA ALIVE.

[redacted]

[redacted] REPORTED THAT BAMACA WAS ALIVE, [redacted] WOULD NEITHER CONFIRM NOR DENY THE ALLEGATION.

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4. [redacted]

5. AS TO THE FATE OF BAMACA, ALA DOES NOT HAVE ENOUGH INFORMATION TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER HE IS STILL ALIVE. ALTHOUGH [redacted] WOULD HAVE A STRONG INCENTIVE TO KEEP HIM ALIVE--FOR HIS SUPPOSED VAST KNOWLEDGE OF ORPA'S STRUCTURE AND PERSONNEL--AND TURN HIM AGAINST HIS FORMER COMRADES, HE JUST AS EASILY MAY HAVE DIED OF BATTLEFIELD WOUNDS AND BEEN BURIED IN AN AS-YET UNIDENTIFIED GRAVE. THE POSSIBILITY ALSO EXISTS THAT THE ARMY

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EXECUTE BAMACA AFTER IT EXTRACTED WHATEVER INFORMATION IT COULD FROM THE ORPA LEADER. IN ANY EVENT, [redacted] REMAINS VERY TIGHT-LIPPED ABOUT THIS CASE AND OTHERS LIKE IT, AND DOES NOT APPEAR INCLINED TO ADMIT ALL THAT IT KNOWS. [redacted]